Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 303712
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:DEREUTHER:LF
APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON, JR.
NEA/ARN:MDRAPER
S/S-O:MACFARLANE
- -
CFARLANE
---------- 003441 /20
R 150320Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T STATE 303712

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, US, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE AMBASSADOR INQUIRY ON THE SOUTHERN LEBANON SITUATION

1. DURING A MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON ON DECEMBER 13, LEBANESE AMBASSADOR KABBANI ASKED FOR A BRIEFING ON HOW THE USG SAW THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON.

2. ATHERTON CHARACTERIZED THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON AS STILL UNRESOLVED. HE REVIEWED THE POSITIONS OF THE VARIOUS PARTIES FOR THE AMBASSADOR: (A) SARKIS'S NEED FOR CONTROL; (B) THE 1969 CAIRO AGREEMENT, ENDORSED AT THE RIYADH-CAIRO SUMMITS, GIVING THE PALESTINIANS PERMISSION TO ESTABLISH A MILITARY PRESENCE IN SOUTH LEBANON AND (C)
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 303712

ISRAEL'S CO4CERN OVER A SYRIAN OR NON-LEBANESE MILITARY

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

PRESENCE CLOSE TO THE BORDER. ATHERTON SAID THAT THE USG SAW ITS ROLE AS TRYING TO MAKE EACH PARTY AWARE OF THE CONCERNS OF THE OTHERS. THE USG IS NOT MEDIATING THE SITUATION, HE STRESSED, BUT IS TRYING TO PREVENT ANY PARTY FROM MISCALCULATING THE SITUATION AND TAKING STEPS THAT WOULD LEAD TO GREATER PROBLEMS. WE HAD COUNSELED RESTRAINT ON ALL PARTIES.

3. THE AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE USG'S EFFORTS AND INDICATED THAT THE PROBLEM WOULD BE CONSIDERABLY SIMPLIFIED IF ONLY A TRUE LEBANESE SECURITY FORCE COULD BE SENT TO THIS AREA.

4. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT THE ISRAELIS WERE BEING UNREASONABLE AND INCOMSISTENT IN HOLDING SYRIA RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING THE PALESTINIANS GENERALLY UNDER CONTROL IN LEBANON WHILE NOT ALLOWING THEM TO EXERCISE SUCH MILITARY CONTROL IN THE SOUTH. ATHERTON SAID THAT THE AMBASSADOR WOULD HAVE TO ADMIT THAT, REGARDLESS OF UHAT THE ISRAELIS MAY BE SAYING, THEY HAVE BEEN RESTRAINED IN THEIR ACTIONS.

5. THE AMBASSADOR SAID HETHOUGHTISRAEL'S OBJECTIVE WAS TO CREATE A BUFFER ZONE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. HE SAID THAT, AFTER TWO YEARS OF WARFARE AND TURMOIL, IT WOULD BE TRAGIC IF ISRAEL'S INTRANSIGENCE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON WOULD BE THE CAUSE OF THE NEXT CRISIS. HE HAD HEARD THAT THE PALESTINIANS HAD MOVED SOME HEAVY WEAPONS INTO SOUTHERN LEBANON. WHILE THIS MOVE WOULD BE RATIONALIZED AS CONFORMING WITH THE CAIRO ACCORD, IT WAS ALSO INTENDED TO ESCAPE THE SECURITY FORCE'S CONFISCATION OF HEAVY WEAPONS. KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE303712
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DEREUTHER:LF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760461-0190
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761240/aaaabikm.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE AMBASSADOR INQUIRY ON THE SOUTHERN LEBANON SITUATION
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, LE, US
To: BEIRUT
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006